THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) A proposal regarding allotment of 8 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) of gas for commissioning of a new green field gas based combined cycle power project (3x700 MW) at Nedunoor Village of Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh was forwarded by Government of Andhra Pradesh to Central Government.

So far, Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has allocated gas to only existing gas power projects (including 2009-10 projects). Further, EGoM in meeting dated 27.10.2009 decided that the requirement of natural gas for plants to be commissioned beyond 2009-10 would be reviewed from time to time by the EGoM for making firm allotments to such plants from the fallback quantity available.

As regards power projects which are in the pipeline, Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has decided that, subject to the availability of gas, necessary allocations from KG D-6 fields will be made to these projects as and when they are ready to commence production.

Power deficit

3516. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's power deficit is set to rise further by 12.61 per cent in FY 2010 as reported in the Business Standard dated 27 May, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plans to make available requisite quantity of gas to power plants to meet the peak power deficit for 2009-10; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government proposes to cope with the power demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The power deficit both in terms of energy and peak power for All India for the penod April to November, 2009 was 9.6% and 12.6% respectively as compared to energy deficit of 10.8% and peak deficit of 13.8% during April to November, 2008. According to the estimation made by CEA, the energy and peak deficit in the country in 2009-10 is likely to be 9.33% and 12.61% respectively.

(c) Since the start of gas production from RIL's KG D-6 gas blocks in the month of April, 2009, gas has been allocated to power sector on priority. Gas from KG D-6 block has been allocated by Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) to existing power projects to run at 75% Plant Load Factor (PLF) for plants located in Andhra Pradesh and 70% PLF for Plants located outside Andhra Pradesh. The gas has been allocated on firm basis to those projects likely to be commissioned during 2009-10. All existing gas based power plants and those plants commissioned this year could

draw gas on fallback basis also up to a maximum of 12 MMSCMD, to further increase their PLF. The gas based generation during April to November, 2009 increased to 62,036 Million Unit (provisional) as compared to 59,430 Million Unit during April to November, 2008, representing a growth of approximately 31.4%.

(d) Following measures have been taken/are being taken by the Government to cope with the power demands:

(i) Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of the on-going generation projects.

(ii) Coordinated operation and maintenance of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas based power stations to optimally utilize the existing generation capacity.

(iii) Import of coal by the power utilities to bridge the gap between requirement of coal and its supply from the domestic sources.

(iv) Allocation of gas from KG Basin (D6) has been made for gas based power stations in the country.

(v) Harnessing surplus power from captive power plants into Grid.

(vi) Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to reap benefits of economies of scale.

(vii) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.

(viii) Strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution network through Acceleration Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) as a major step towards loss reduction.

(ix) Import of power from hydro power stations located in Bhutan.

Status of hydel projects

3517. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that several hydel projects in the northern parts of the country are on the brink of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the firms operating these projects have sought easier regulatory terms and incentives;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether, in the absence of providing easier regulatory terms and incentives to hydel projects, the power generation has been affected; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and further steps Government proposes to take in this regard?